

Sarah Walker

Born 1988, Australia. Lives and works in Melbourne, Australia.
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EDUCATION

- 2019 MFA at RMIT, Melbourne. Vice-Chancellor's List for Academic Excellence.
- 2010 Bachelor of Arts, Monash University, Melbourne.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

- 2023 Fisher's Ghost Art Prize. *Finalist*.
- 2023 Wyndham Art Prize. *Finalist*.
- 2023 Alpine Fellowship Writing Prize. *Shortlisted*.
- 2023 Hammond House International Literary Prize — Short story. *Third place*.
- 2023 Three Minute Thesis Competition. *RMIT winner and Asia-Pacific semifinalist*.
- 2022 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. *Shortlisted*.
- 2021 Quentin Bryce Award for *The First Time I Thought I Was Dying*. *Winner*.
- 2020 Victorian Rising Star award, Australian Book Review. *Winner*.
- 2020 Walkley Award — Feature Writing Short. Walkley Foundation. *Finalist*.
- 2020 Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Writing. *Shortlisted*.
- 2020 Disquiet Literary Prize. *Shortlisted*.
- 2019 ESXLA residency presented by RMIT: *Situate and Eastside International, Los Angeles*. *Winner*.
- 2019 *Emerging Artist Award 2019, fortyfivedownstairs*. *Finalist*.
- 2019 MTV RE:DEFINE award, presented by the Goss-Michael Foundation. *Finalist*.
- 2019 Lowensteins Arts Management Prize. *Winner*.
- 2019 Calibre Essay Prize, Australian Book Review. *Runner Up*.
- 2017 Sydney Road Writer's Contest and Cup. *Overall winner and Storytelling Prize winner*.
- 2017 Darebin Mayor's Writing Award. *Highly Commended*.
- 2017 Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women, Brightspace, Melbourne. *Finalist*.
- 2016 CCP Salon, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne. *Best Portrait winner*.
- 2015 National Photographic Portrait Prize, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. *Finalist*.
- 2015 Maggie Diaz Photography Prize for Women, Brightspace, Melbourne. *Finalist*.
- 2015 Moran Photographic Portrait Prize. *Semi-finalist*.
- 2011 Green Room Awards, Best Ensemble, for *The Economist*, MKA. *Finalist*.

RESIDENCIES AND LABS

- 2024 Frame Documentary Lab 2024, with Roslyn Oades.
- 2023 Hi-Viz LAB, facilitated by Chamber Made.
- 2023 Varuna fellowship, Varuna The Writer's House, NSW.
- 2022 Platform LAB residency, Platform Arts, Geelong.
- 2019 Tropical Lab residency, LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore. *Selected RMIT attendee*.
- 2019 Springbrook residency, QLD, facilitated by Australian Rainforest Conservation Society.
- 2019 Red Farm Barn regional residency, facilitated by Barking Spider visual theatre.
- 2018 Time, Place, Space: Nomad regional residency, facilitated by Arts House.
- 2013 Visible Studios artist-in-residence at Federation Square, Melbourne.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2021 *The First Time I Thought I Was Dying*. Published by University of Queensland Press. *Essay collection*. *Winner of the 2021 Quentin Bryce Award*.

Book chapters

- 2023 'Love is a doing word', in *Dear Lover*, edited by Samuel Johnson. Published by Hachette.
- 2020 'Sinking feelings and hopeful horizons: holding complexity in climate change theatre', in *Affective Movements, Methods and Pedagogies*, edited by Anne Harris & Stacy Holman Jones. Published by Routledge. *Book chapter*. Co-authored with Fleur Kilpatrick.
- 2016 'A Letter to the Thorn in My Side', in *Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Women of Letters*, edited by Michaela McGuire and Marieke Hardy. Published by Penguin.

Essays

- 2022 *Little Breaks*, The Monthly, September 2022.
- 2021 *Gnashing of Teeth: Dental and mental health in Australia*, published in Verandah Literary & Art Journal.
- 2020 *Contested Breath*, Australian Book Review. Finalist for Walkley Award for feature writing short.
- 2019 *Floundering*, published in the Australian Book Review and the Australian Financial Review. Runner-up in the Calibre Essay Prize.

Fiction

- 2024 *Mycelium*. Published in Island Magazine 170. *Short story.*
- 2023 *Rasp*. Published in *CHANGES: Award Winning Short Stories*, Hammond House Publishing. Third place, Hammond House International Literary Prize — Short story.
- 2022 *Fontanelle*. Published in Overland, Autumn 2022. *Short story.*
- 2022 *The Middle, The Edge*. Commissioned by MicroLabs Melbourne / Melbourne Knowledge Week / Melbourne Conversations. *Short story.*
- 2017 *Spread*. Published in n-SCRIBE 12. *Short story.* Highly Commended: Darebin Mayor's Writing Award.

Criticism, editorial and catalogue essays

- 2024 *Megacities*. Published in NGV Magazine Issue 45, March-April 2024. *Commissioned critical response.*
- 2021 Catalogue essay for Steven Rendall's *Fragments, Excerpts and Categories*, Niagara Galleries.
- 2021 *Still Lives*. Published in Meanjin, June 2021. With André Dao, Michael Green and Nicole Curby. *Editorial.*
- 2021 *Because the Night*. Theatre review for the Australian Book Review.
- 2021 *Monsters*. Book review for the Australian Book Review.
- 2020 *The Image is Not Nothing (Concrete Archive)*. Published by Art + Australia. Edited by Lisa Radford and Yhonnie Scarce. *Editorial.*
- 2020 *What I'm Reading*. Meanjin online. *Editorial.*
- 2020 *play walk listen yes*, ASDR Zine 012. Commissioned critical response for Chamber Made's Hi-Viz Practice Exchange 2020.
- 2020 *Sky Swimming*. Book review for the Australian Book Review.
- 2020 *The Great Australian Play*. Theatre review for the Australian Book Review.
- 2019 *Gender Euphoria*. Theatre review for the Australian Book Review.
- 2019 *Oh No! Satan Stole My Pineal Gland!* Theatre review for the Australian Book Review.
- 2019 *Australian Realness*. Theatre review for the Australian Book Review.
- 2018 *MONA FOMA*. Festival review for Arts Hub.
- 2017 *Pieces for Small Spaces*, Chunky Move. Commissioned critical response.

SOLO COMMISSIONS AND MAJOR COLLABORATIONS

- 2024 *Talk Therapy*, Blindsight Mobile. *Solo show.*
- 2022 *Target Practice*, Platform Arts. *Solo show.*
- 2022 *Bodies of Water*. Audio and public performance work, with Katerina Kokkinos-Kennedy and Triage Live Art Collective. Supported by Platform LAB residency. *Lead artist.*
- 2022 *My Self in That Moment*, Chamber Made and Experimenta. Performance work, presented by the SUBSTATION Melbourne. *Lead artist.*
- 2021 *Her Small White Hands*, Geelong Art Gallery. Curated by Lisa Sullivan. *Solo commission.*
- 2021 *Colosseum*, with Ian Pidd, Martyn Coutts and Dylan Sheridan. Keynote festival work, video and public installation, The Unconformity Festival, Queenstown, TAS. *Lead artist.*
- 2021 *Expanded Field*, public art lab and public art commission, curated by Ilana Russell. Supported by City of Greater Geelong. *Commissioned artist.*
- 2021 *Sunrise Studio*, with Jess Wilson, Monash University. Public participatory work and exhibition. *Lead artist.*
- 2021 *Dark Talk Time*, with Ben Landau and Jalen Lyle-Holmes. Public participatory work. Supported by the City of Monash. *Lead artist.*
- 2020 *Dark Talk Time*, with Ben Landau and Jalen Lyle-Holmes. Supported by the City of Melbourne, City of Darebin and City of Whittlesea. Public participatory work. *Lead artist.*

- 2020 *Legs like pistons*, for 'Monument to Now: MoreArt 2020.' Public participatory audio walk. *Commissioned artist.*
- 2020 *Text Block Stack*, with Ben Landau and Jalen Lyle-Holmes, NGV and Melbourne Art Book Fair, 2020. Performance activation. *Lead artist.*
- 2020 *Faces of Fringe 2020: In Your Dreams*, Metro Tunnel hoardings project. *Lead artist.*
- 2019 *Retreat*, MONA FOMA 2019, with Ben Landau. Public participatory festival work. *Project facilitator and key creative.*
- 2019 *In Living Colour*, First Site Gallery, RMIT. *Solo show.*
- 2019 *Melbourne Fringe x Metro Tunnel* hoardings project. *Solo show.*
- 2017 *Songs of the Earth, Spirits of the Sky*. City of Booroondara, with Barking Spider Visual Theatre. *Project facilitator and key creative.*
- 2016 *The Human Condition*, Footscray High School, with Barking Spider Visual Theatre. *Lead artist.*
- 2015 *By You, Me and the Light*, youth short film for Rawcus. *Lead artist.*
- 2014/15 *Yours the Face*. Theatre work. Presented by Adelaide Fringe/Tandanya Firefly and Theatre Works. *Director and designer.*
- 2014 *Portraits* project with young people with and without disabilities for Rawcus. *Lead artist.*

GROUP SHOWS & PERFORMANCE COLLABORATIONS

- 2023 Fisher's Ghost Art Award 2023 Exhibition, Campbelltown Arts Centre. *Group show of prize finalists.*
- 2023 Wyndham Art Prize 2023 Exhibition, Wyndham Cultural Centre. *Group show of prize finalists.*
- 2023 *Ultra Terrestrial*, Elevator ARI. *Group show, as part of collective Filth.*
- 2023 *can we talk about this?*, correspondences studio, curated by Amanda Chamsay. *Group show.*
- 2023 *The Rest is Up To You: Melbourne Fringe Festival 1982-2062*, State Library of Victoria. Curated by Kate Rhodes. *Archive show.*
- 2023 *Hidden Creature Gallery*, Arena Theatre with TMAG and Bunjil Place. *Story artist.*
- 2022 *Window Dressing*, Third Space Gallery + Digital x The Contemporary. *Group show.*
- 2021 *VACANTCity – 1000 years BackForward*, curated by Anne Scott Wilson, Mirjana Lozanovska and Cameron Bishop. *Group show — commissioned artist.*
- 2021 *Tropical Lab Exhibition*, Lasalle College of the Arts ICA Gallery. Curated by Anca Rujoiu. *Group show.*
- 2020 *The Nightline*, with Roslyn Oades. Supported by the City of Melbourne and Rising Festival. Public participatory and installation work. *Collaborating artist.*
- 2020 *Energetical*, Deakin Prime Ministerial Gallery, curated by Platform Arts. *Group show.*
- 2020 *JALAN MENUJU MEDIA KREATIF (JMMK#12)*, curated by FSMR ISI Yogyakarta. *Group show.*
- 2020 *They Cannot Take the Sky: Stories from Detention*, Behind the Wire, Creative Victoria and Road to Refuge. *Touring group exhibition.*
- 2019 *Killing Time, Exchanging Utopia and the Pleasure Principle: A Provocation*, Capitol Theatre, curated by RMIT + RCA London. *Group show.*
- 2019 *Aesthetics of Human Relations*, Site Eight Gallery, RMIT, curated by Soyoun Kim. *Group show.*
- 2019 *7 for 7* hoardings project. Produced by RMIT University (RMIT), Central Equity, Wonderment Walk Victoria (WWV), Multiplex and Future Tense. *Group show.*
- 2019 *One Night Stand*, Evie's, curated by Coalesce ARI. *Group show.*
- 2019 *Whale*. Theatre work. Presented by Northcote Town Hall and MLIVE. *Performer and AV designer.*
- 2018 *CCP Salon*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne. *Group show.*
- 2018 *Behind the Curtain*, Yarra Sculpture Gallery, curated by Julian Cobb. *Group show.*
- 2018 *Stay Safe*, Noir Darkroom. *Group show.*
- 2018 *Artland*, RMIT Brunswick, curated by the RMIT Curatorial Collective. *Group show.*
- 2018 *One Night Stand: Aberration*, The Burrow, curated by Coalesce ARI. *Group show.*
- 2017 *They Cannot Take the Sky: Stories from Detention*, Melbourne Immigration Museum and Behind the Wire. *Touring group show.*
- 2017 *Kill Climate Deniers*, David Finnigan and Reuben Ingall, album edition. *Vocal performer.*
- 2016 *Autumn*, Noir Darkroom. *Group show.*
- 2016 *Black and White*, Noir Darkroom. *Group show.*
- 2015 *Kindness*. Theatre work. Presented by Theatre Works. *Lighting designer.*
- 2015 *Future Past* retrospective, permanent exhibition, Arts House, Melbourne. *Group show.*
- 2014 *CCP Salon*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne. *Group show.*
- 2013 *Love: This is not yet a musical*, co-creative with Sipat Lawin Ensemble, Philippines. *Collaborating*

- artist.
- 2013 *Choir Girl*. Theatre work. Presented by Attic Erratic with Melbourne Fringe, Adelaide Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festival. *Performer and set designer*.
- 2012 *Awake*. Theatre work. Presented by Quiet Little Fox with Adelaide Fringe and La Mama. *Lighting and set designer*.
- 2011-13 *Insomnia Cat Came to Stay*. Theatre work. Presented by Quiet Little Fox with Melbourne Fringe and The Blue Room. *Lighting, set and costume designer*.
- 2011 *The Economist*. Presented by MKA Theatre of New Writing. *Performer*. Finalist: Green Room Award for Best Ensemble.
- 2010 *Ad Nauseam & Ad Infinitum*. Theatre double bill. Presented by Attic Erratic with Melbourne Fringe. *Lighting and set designer*.
- 2010 *Ad Absurdum*. Short theatre, for Short & Sweet Festival. *Performer*. Winner: Best play.
- 2010 *Where We Fall*. Theatre work. Presented by Monash Uni Student Theatre. *Lighting designer*. Winner: Best Lighting design, MUST awards.

SPEAKING APPEARANCES, WORKSHOPS AND MODERATION

- 2023 *Establishing a Sustainable Practice* for the National Writer's Conference / Emerging Writer's Festival 2023. *Conversational panellist*.
- 2023 *The Rest is Up To You: The future of Fringe*, for Melbourne Fringe Festival and State Library Victoria. *Podcast interviewee*.
- 2023 *Flowing Loops*, two workshops co-presented with Dan Koop for FLOWING LOOPS ~ LOOPING FLOWS. *Workshop facilitator*.
- 2023 *Navigating photography as an artist and maker*, Victorian College of the Arts. *Workshop facilitator*.
- 2023 *Come Talk Art* for The Contemporary, Geelong. *Session moderator*.
- 2022 *Better Off Said*, August 2022. *Speaker*.
- 2022 *Sarah Walker on the Joys of Being Absolutely Shithouse at Sport* for Sydney Writer's Festival. *Lecture*.
- 2022 *Chloe Hooper and Sarah Walker* for Sydney Writer's Festival. *Conversation panellist*.
- 2022 *Writing, Health and Advocacy* for Hobart Writer's Festival. *Conversation panellist*.
- 2022 *A Celebration of New and Diverse Voices* for Castlemaine Writer's Festival. *Keynote panellist*.
- 2022 *Connecting People, Place and Practice in Regional Art Contexts* for Artlands, Regional Arts Australia. *Conversation panellist*.
- 2022 *DUELS Careers Night* for Deakin University English Language Society. *Conversation panellist*.
- 2021 *A New Body Politic* for Melbourne Writer's Festival. *Conversation panellist*.
- 2021 *Sarah Walker: The First Time I Thought I Was Dying* for Avid Reader. *Author talk*.
- 2019 *Imagine Me and You: Bob Brown and Paul Thomas*, Melbourne Writer's Festival. *Session moderator*.

Conference presentations

- 2023 *The Auto / Bio / Fiction Series, with Michael Newman and Sarah Walker: Portrait, Anti-Portrait, Autofiction and Visual Arts*, Centre for Comparative Literature, Goldsmiths, University of London.
- 2023 *TaPRA 2023 Sound, Voice, Music Working Group: Encountering (im)materiality and community through sound, voice and music*. TaPRA 2023, University of Leeds.
- 2023 *Stand Still and Smile*. The Material: Art & Technology Research Group presents: Fiction Machines IV, Bath Spa University.
- 2019 *Levity and Gravity: The Place of Humour in Critical Autoethnography*, co-authored with Fleur Kilpatrick. Critical Autoethnography 2019 Annual International Conference, State Library of Victoria.
- 2019 *Ocular becomings in dangerous times: The politics of 'seeing'*, session facilitator, Association for Visual Pedagogies 2019 International AVP Conference, RMIT University, with Ben Landau.

OTHER PROJECTS

- 2022- Sessional lecturer, School of Communication and Creative Arts, Deakin University.
- 2020- *The Contemporary*. Arts and curatorial collective in Geelong. *Co-founder*.
- 2016-18 *Contact Mic*. Podcast. Co-creator and co-host.
- 2015 *The Art Olympics*. Monthly arts interview project. Founder and director.